

Application No. 09/826,502
Docket No. SD-6643

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-12 are currently pending.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have CANCELLED claims 1 and 5.

Applicants have amended claim 2 to depend from claim 4. Also, the word "flexible" was changed to "movable", and the word "flexing" was changed to "moving", in order to be more consistent with the specification.

Applicants have amended claim 4 by rewriting it in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim 1.

Applicants have amended claims 6, 7 and 9 to depend from claim 4.

Discussion

The Office objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), as not showing the bellows of claim 4, and rigid stops of claim 5. In response, applicants have added Fig. 4 that shows the bellows feature. No new matter has been entered. With respect to the rigid stops of claim 5, applicants have cancelled claim 5.

The office objected to minor informalities in the specification. In response, applicants amended paragraph [24] by replacing the duplicate label "9" with a different

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lab 1 "11". Also, applicants amended paragraph [27] to replace "hous " with hose, as required by the office. Finally, applicants amended paragraph [34] by deleting the phrase [WHAT IS SEALING MEMBER 20?], as required by the office.

35 USC 112 Rejections, Second Paragraph

The Office rejected claims 2, 3 and 5 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

In response, applicants amended claim 2 to depend from claim 4. Also, the word "flexible" was changed to "movable"; and the word "flexing" was changed to "moving", in order to be more precise and consistent with the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that these changes makes claim 2 definite and consistent with the written specification. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 USC 112 has been overcome, and claim 2 is now in condition for allowance. Claim 3 depends from claim 2; hence claim 3 is allowable. Claim 5 was cancelled.

Allowable Claims

The office indicated that claim 4 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, applicants have amended claim 4 by rewriting it in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim 1. Accordingly, claim 4 is now in condition for allowance.

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Also, applicants have amended claims **2, 6, 7 and 9** to depend from claim **4**. Since claim **4** is allowable, it follows that claims **2, 6, 7 and 9** are also allowable.

Claim **3** depends from claim **2**; claim **8** depends from claim **7**; claims **10 and 12** depends from claim **9**; and claim **11** depends from claim **10**. Since claims **2, 6, 7 and 9** are allowable, it follows that dependent claims **3, 8, 10, 11 and 12** are allowable.

35 USC 103(a) Rejections

The Office rejected claims **1, 2 and 6-12** under 35 USC 103(a). In response, applicants cancelled claim **1**.

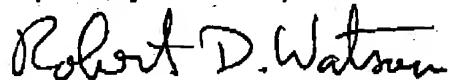
The remaining claims **2 and 6-12** were amended to depend from an allowable claim (i.e., claim **4**). Accordingly, the rejections of claims **2 and 6-12** under 35 USC 103(a) have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants have responded to each and every objection and rejection, and urge that claims 2-4 and 6-11 as amended and presented herein are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request expeditious processing to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



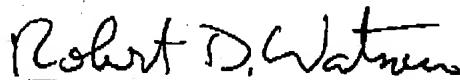
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Robert D. Watson